



THE MESSENGER

Van Hart's Search to Understand Hungary through Collage



By: Laura Hutton

"It was a much bigger love than my first husband," Linda Van Hart, visiting professor from Westminster campus says of her jewelry making. Spending the semester on the Budapest campus teaching Mixed Media Collage, she explains that this class will be "a great way to work with students from all over the world."

On main campus, Van Hart's jewelry making class focuses on her passion. She enjoys working with metal and expressing herself through the jewelry she molds. "I love teaching almost as much as I love metal," Van Hart explains.

Here at the Budapest campus, however, metal sculpting facilities were not available. By teaching a collage class, Van Hart allows students a different venue for expressing themselves through various mediums, creating collages that help transcend the cultural differences between students from around the world.

This self-proclaimed

world traveler has spent time throughout Europe and Africa, including Ireland, England, Egypt, Kenya, and many other countries. Van Hart describes navigating Paris "like (it's) the back of my hand." She has also been to Italy 5 or 6 times and plans to go back twice during her time in Budapest this semester.

Growing up in Baltimore and attending Western Maryland College made Carroll County a home base for Van Hart and she eventually returned to the school to teach part time in 1981.

Before returning to the Hill, Van Hart went to graduate school at Towson and fell in love with jewelry making. Unable to get into the watercolor class she desired, a friend suggested she try a jewelry making class. Her passion grew from there.

After graduating from Towson, she taught at both Francis Scott Key and South Carroll high schools in Carroll County before returning to WMC.

Right after she began teaching at the college, Van Hart had her first jewelry show through her Tollhouse Studio in 1982. The studio is run by Van Hart and she shows her jewelry in galleries and at high end craft shows throughout the year.

While in Budapest, Van Hart has explored the city and its construction sites. "I have a thing for construction sites." There is "not much under the hard hat, but a lot under the sleeves," of construction workers Van Hart jokes.

The construction

mesmerizes her because it shows the growth of the city and how "it has been reconstructed so many times," Van Hart adds. One morning, after remembering construction she passed on the way home she "knew the morning light would hit the construction site" and hopped out of bed, still dressed in her pajamas, threw on a coat, and ran out to get pictures.

As Van Hart revels in the construction sites and architectural beauty throughout the city, she is taken aback by the people she encounters. "We are in luck at the college (in Budapest); the people do not speak English, they speak American." They understand our culture and many have lived it. But, the story is different out on the streets.

Hungarians listen to our music, but they do not know our culture Van Hart states, and she explains, "I haven't figured them out yet. Those who are the nicest are the ex-pats or relatives, people who are not true Hungarians. . . I told this woman she was beautiful and she backed off me like I was a leper."

On campus at home "if you don't look someone in the eye and say hi, you're not doing the 'McDaniel thing,'" adds Van Hart. She acknowledges that it is not the same way here.

As Americans, we are used to greeting strangers as we walk down the street. As a culture, we are pretty outgoing. Hungarians are more internal on the streets. By observing their culture, one notices their reserved nature, which warms up when

they are in a more personal environment, for example, when they are surrounded by friends in a restaurant. But, walking down the street can be off setting until one begins to understand the cultural differences.

Van Hart recalled an experience in Nairobi, Kenya. A man walked up to her and placed his arm on hers, and started speaking Swahili. He was "looking right into my eyes," recalled Van Hart, and she could understand him and their strongly intimate culture that differs from what she has encountered here.

Exploring and photographing the city, Van Hart continues to search for more construction sites and keys to help her understand her place in Hungarian culture. Her feelings are reflected through a series of collages she is working on entitled "the woman in the mirror is wearing my clothes; but, she is not me."

Help Van Hart and her students with their collage projects by turning old magazines into her. Check the posters around the second floor for details.



"source:
www.tollhousestudio.com"

Editorial

“What in the World is Going On?”

A Lack of Communication at McDaniel College Budapest

By: Estefania Luraschi

Walk down the third floor hall of the building that houses McDaniel College Budapest – you are bound to meet at least one student with a perplexed, confused look on their face. Ask them why - they will tell you they have just found out they can not graduate on time, they did not know they needed to comply with specific requisites, or they still need to take an additional test they did not know about.

Of course, there is the odd, irresponsible student who has no idea what is going on, needs to be held by the hand, and needs to be reminded of their duties time and again. However, the number of seemingly clueless students is unusually high.

One issue which arose recently pertains to the existence of a June Term. This is a three-week course, usually offered in January as Jan Term or January Term, which is a requisite for students to receive diplomas from McDaniel. According to our Academic Advisor, Dr. Judith Mandy, “The Jan Terms have always been taught by professors from the main campus. This gives our McDaniel Budapest students another opportunity to take a different and interesting course from a professor from the States--something that is not always available to them otherwise.”

Much to students’ surprise, there will be no June Term this year. To the students’ further sur-

prise, there was only one June Term at McDaniel College. As Dr. Judith Mandy explained, this was a special exception, offered to those students who were caught in the middle of McDaniel’s change from a two-year college to a four-year college. If the college had not offered a June term, Dr. Mandy said, many students would not have been able to graduate on time.

However, with new policy changes concerning TOEFL requirements, further hurdles were put in place for students to graduate when they planned to. According to the current policy, those students who have not taken and passed a TOEFL test by their fifth semester are only allowed to carry two courses per semester, in addition to a TOEFL preparatory course, and if in their sixth semester then only three regular courses.

While it is true that students are responsible for obtaining test scores on their own time and convenience, some students are under time pressure to finish on time while taking a normal course load, and this puts them at an unfair disadvantage.

If only this were the sole problem with the new TOEFL rule – but it is not. Another major problem many students encounter is the criteria by which they are or are not exempted from taking this English test. What are the criteria? Whether the student is a national of an English-speaking state. How does one determine an English speaking state? What about a commonwealth? And how does one tell a student, who has spent their entire school life learning in English, as there are such things as English-language international schools in existence today, that they still need to take

an English test? This is downright insulting.

Another concern among students is the implementation of standing rules, which seems to be done arbitrarily and on a case-by-case basis. In a college where students should be considered equal, nobody should have an advantage over anybody else, for whatever reason.

With all the problems enumerated here, one could conclude that what lies at their core is a lack of communication, clarity, and information dissemination. But how brilliantly easy it is to solve this! Post it on the web. Put it in the student paper. E-mail it to students. Publish it in the green student handbook. Pin it on the wall. Shout it out through loudspeakers. Anything.

What students themselves can do, and are in the process of doing, is find a way to voice their own concerns. Besides keeping themselves informed on their own, which to a certain extent is the responsibility of each student, McDaniel Budapest students are in the process of reviving the once active, but now dormant, Student Union. This is one of the ways students can make sure policy issues are discussed or, at the very least, announced to all.

The bottom line is that students need to have a way to know what is going on behind the administration’s walls, and that rules have to be very clear-cut as well as be implemented fairly and universally. This will truly improve the atmosphere and community spirit at McDaniel College Budapest.

Response to the Editorial



Response from Dean Frenyo

Dear Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to respond to the editorial published in this issue of The Messenger.

First of all, the historic background of the one and only June Term has been thoroughly explained by Dr. Mandy. The purpose of having guest professors to offer the Jan Term from the main campus is to strengthen the contact between Westminster and our campus here in Budapest.

Passing the TOEFL has always been a prerequisite to remain a student of McDaniel College, since the original structure of the program allowed a student to spend the first two years in Budapest only and students were supposed to transfer to the main campus for the upper two year of their education. The TOEFL has not only been a requirement of all US higher education institutions for transfer students, but it also has been enforced by the US immigration authorities as a requirement to granting a US student visa. Only those students are exempted from this requirement are those who are considered to be native speakers according to their citizenship. They are required, however, to take two courses of a foreign language—something which is not required from other international students.

Following the extension of the program to a full- fledged four year degree program at the Budapest Campus, the above requirement remained effective, and became a diploma requirement even for those who can not transfer to the main campus. The argument was that it would be unfair to exempt students who stay in Budapest from this requirement, while it is a must for all others who spend some time at the main campus. At the beginning it was up to our students to pass the TOEFL any time during the four years of their education. The reality showed something else, however, since it turned out that more and more students kept postponing the test, and therefore they were not eligible to be granted their diploma. It is a quite astonishing phenomenon from the main campus's perspective as to how a graduating student of an American college is unable to pass the TOEFL, which is a prerequisite for all international students wishing to study in the States.

In order to stimulate the process, a new regulation has been introduced in an incremental manner, mostly because the so-called American Experience semester has recently been introduced, meaning that every students entering the program from fall 2007 is required to spend at least one semester at the main campus.

According to the new regulation (which was announced in the Fall 2006 semester, and has been continuously emphasized since then), students entering their fifth semester in fall 2007 without a valid TOEFL score are enrolled in a TOEFL Intensive semester, meaning that they can only take two regular courses beyond taking an additional 8 hours of TOEFL related courses. In case the test is not passed by the end of the fifth semester, then only three regular courses can be taken during the six semesters beyond an additional 4 hours of TOEFL related preparatory courses--and the system remains like that until the TOEFL requirement is met.

As you can see, the change was announced well ahead of time through an intensive campaign. Several forums have been organized about the topic. Dr. Falkner, the Provost of the main campus even devoted a special meeting to the topic emphasizing the necessity of the TOEFL, while launching the American Experience program.

The system is clearly spelled out with capital letters on the Registration Form that each student signs each semester during registration.

In reference to the editorial's comment about the arbitrary"implementation of standing rules," I can hardly interpret that with the lack of solid facts. In case evidence is provided, we are certainly open to discuss those issues, as well.

Traveling

Flipflops in the Winter; a Week in Tunisia

By: Maja Florsic

Sick of snow, cold wind, hats and gloves, I decided to spend a week of this winter somewhere warm, wearing flip flops and skirts. This is how I stumbled upon a travel agency offer for Tunisia. I didn't know much about this country except that it was situated in the North of Africa but the photographs in the catalogue were of palm trees and beeches which was exactly what I wanted.

After a surprisingly long and uncomfortable flight (as the plane for some reason had to go to Prague and a Tunisien island Djerba first, neither of which were actually on the way), we reached Sousse; the third largest Tunisien city.

Sousse is an old city located 140km from Tunis, the capital. It is on the mediterranean coast, East of the country. Its economy is based on transport equipment, processed food, olive oil, textiles, leather and tourism. The Tunisien currency is the Dinar.

Sousse has a beautiful old Medina; a section of the city enclosed by amazing walls, containing many narrow stone paved streets which has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Infact, many North African cities have a Medina which in Arabic simply means "town". The Sousse medina contains no cars or traffic, only pedestrians. Many markets and bazaars are contained within the medina giving it a special unique charm.

As we entered the medina we were swamped with the first confusing but intriguing, later just exhausting salesmen and their endless attempts to get us to buy something and bargain with them. They set the prices abnormally high at which you have to try to have them lowered. It almost seemed to me that they would in some way feel offended if I didn't bargain with them!

At one pint, walking through the medina, I was extremely happy I managed to lower the price of a stuffed toy camel I had bought for my little brother from 20 Dinars to 9, only to learn in a few hours the real price for such a camel is less than 4 Dinars!

Further into the medina we came across a food market out in the streets, selling everything from different spices to live chicken, ducks and sheep.

I never thought I would see as many sheep as I did in the Sousse medina; little children all around you dragging their sheep somewhere! I'm sure I would under normal circumstances be disturbed by the site of this, but somehow everything seemed to fit in with everything else so well.

I found the people were so friendly and sincere and seemed happy which was very refreshing. The sunny weather fit the people and the atmosphere perfectly.

Our hotel was situated just outside of Sousse and it wasn't nearly as nice as it seemed on the photographs. I noticed that in comparison to European hotels a star or two needs to be removed to match the category.

The beach was just a few meters from our hotel and it was beautifully taken care of as was the hotel garden. The sea was turquoise, full of sea shells but cold, which didn't stop me from spending most of the days on the beach, trying desperately to get a tan and returning to the hotel cold and untanned.

Even though the temperature was actually quite a bit lower than we had hoped it to be, (no flipflops or skirts for me in the end), a week in Tunisia in the winter was still a pleasant change from the Budapest snow and a wonderful insight into a completely different culture.



Medina walls

Traveling



Inside Medina



A small spice shop in Medina



Selling spices in the Medina market



Sousse beach

Review



Budapest Coffee Houses: 1949 v. 2008

By: Amy Rust

I was first introduced to coffee when I fell in love with the bohemian feel behind the traditional American coffee house. In my early high school years, going to these cafés became a ritual between my friends and me. We would sit for hours and hear the poetry readings on Friday nights and then come back to eat delicious pastries on Saturday mornings. On my January Term trip to Italy in 2007, I tasted real Italian espresso, which has since become my drink of choice. Naturally, when I began this study abroad trip to Budapest, I made it my personal goal to experience as many coffee houses and cafés as I possibly could in this far too short of time that I will be spending here. And so, it is with great passion that I begin this historical coffee house expedition around this beautiful city of Budapest, Hungary. Allow me to start by taking you back to the year 1949 when the country was taken over by



the Communists...

The Lukács Café has a history that is as rich as its espresso. Sitting on the corner Andrassy út 70., this once public café was confiscated by the Communist Party in 1949 and was closed to the public. Originally, Lukács was owned and operated by a family known as (go figure) the Lukács family. When the Communists took over the café, they transformed it into the meeting place of the secret police (www.budapest-tourist-guide.com).

Imagine, now, pipe and cigar smoke drifting and swirling about the uniformed men who hold newspapers and coffee cups, situated very cozily upon their red, comfy chairs. Delicious cakes sit, half eaten, on the crisp white table cloths. Waiters buzz around bringing trays of pastries and food and whisking away soiled cups and saucers. There is a chatter here about the weather, the war, and all those regular words exchanged by men in Communist uniforms. A piano man sits on his bench in the corner on weekdays and plays his ditties to please those sitting at the tables.

Now step forward a few years. As a college student living in a big city, it can be rough sometimes to find a quite niche to study and do homework. You need a place with comfortable chairs and coffee to keep you awake as well as pastries and sandwiches for those 'homework munchies' that tend to arise while plowing your way through something written by Dante or struggling to find the meaning behind imaginary numbers. The perfect place for you is the California Coffee Company. With free wireless internet, comfy chairs, delicious caramel macchiato with a caramel muffin (or white chocolate mocha with a white chocolate cookie, or even just a chai tea and their 'green bagel'), the college kid in search of some homework completion can find a home away from the school computer lab!

Personally, I like to go to the C.C.C. on Teréz körút 38, but I hear

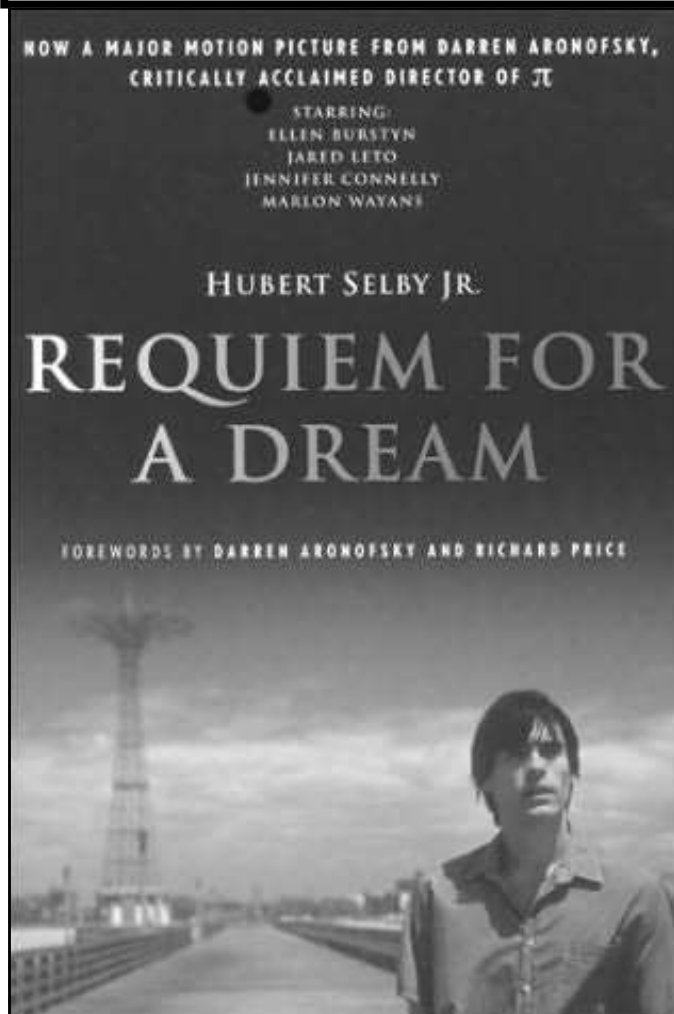
they have other locations around the city, as well. It is a calming atmosphere and great place to 'people watch' when you need that hour or so break from the studying.

Both cafés, Lukács and C.C.C., are wonderful places and I have found their espresso to be highly decent espresso. However, the C.C.C. is a far cry from the 1949 atmosphere of the Lukács Café. Likewise, I don't know how you feel about breaking social norms, but I would not be caught dead lugging my laptop into Lukács and ordering a chocolate croissant with a vanilla latte, making far too much noise on my keyboard. The 1949 atmosphere has not completely been run out, in my opinion, and it is more the place to wear nice clothes and bring your one or two friends. Opposite, it would be – and is – perfectly acceptable to bring the laptop and a few more friends to the C.C.C to catch up on the latest gossip or, as previously stated, do homework.



As for me, someone who is addicted to coffee and loves history as well as the internet, I am torn between the two cafés. I would recommend to you, dear reader, to check them out, if you have not yet already done so. See for yourself and taste the atmospheric differences as well as the coffees of these two lovely cafés in Budapest, Hungary!

Book Review



Requiem For A Dream - A deep,
dark provocative story of the loss of truth
and reality

By: Katya Ivanova

“Requiem For a Dream” by Hubert Selby Jr. is a book that starts out sad and gets worse. There is an unexplainable feeling of terror and heartache that

permeates every action taken by the characters as they spiral continuously downward. Do not expect a happy ending or cliché realizations. As the author himself writes in the preface, “I do not think there will ever be a requiem for the dream, simply because it will destroy us before we have a chance to mourn its passing.” This novel will destroy all hope you may have had for the characters and brilliantly show you the dark side of the American Dream.

The story is about four main characters suffering from different addictions, trying their hardest to fool themselves into thinking that they can make it big and live an easy life.

Sara Goldfarb is a lonely widow who spends her days watching television, eating chocolate covered cherries, and pining for her late husband Seymour. Harry Goldfarb, Sara's black sheep of a son, is another main character. Harry's circle of acquaintances includes his girlfriend Marion, an intelligent, attractive young girl with a talent for painting but paralyzed with defeatist and self-loathing feelings. Harry's best friend is Tyrone C. Love, a young black man who grew up poor in Harlem but would like to escape from the harsh realities of the street. While minor characters come and go during the course of the story, Selby focuses on these four to attempt to show the course of doom associated with addiction. However, the novel is not only a commentary about the devastating affects of drugs, but it also demonstrates how the pursuit of wealth and fame can destroy one’s soul.

A critically acclaimed film of the same name was released in 2000 and directed by Darren Aronofsky. The movie really did an admirable job of recreating the story, yet it is when Selby gets into the characters heads that we experience emotions that no movie can really create.

60 SECONDS “What do you eat for lunch, and where do you eat?” by: Amy Rust



Paul Salerno - Math Major

“At school, Sandwich”



Juan Rodriguez - Math Major

“At school, Sandwich or chicken “



Fernando Gomes - English Major

“At home, Sandwich with fruit“

Jokes

Submitted by: Sven Pomykalo



A new manager spends a week at his new office with the manager he is replacing. On the last day the departing manager tells him, "I have left three numbered envelopes in the desk drawer. Open an envelope if you encounter a crisis you can't solve."

Three months down the track there is major drama, everything goes wrong - the usual stuff - and the manager feels very threatened by it all.

He remembers the parting words of his predecessor and opens the first envelope. The message inside says "Blame your predecessor!" He does this and gets off the hook.

About half a year later, the company is experiencing a dip in sales, combined with serious product problems. The manager quickly opens the second envelope. The message read, "Reorganize!" This he does, and the company quickly rebounds.

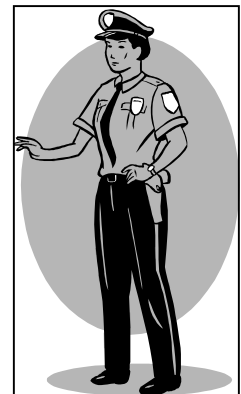
Three months later, at his next crisis, he opens the third envelope. The message inside says "Prepare three envelopes"

A little boy was lost at a large shopping mall

A little boy was lost at a large shopping mall. He approached a uniformed policeman and said, "I've lost my dad!"

The cop asked, "What's he like?"

The little boy replied, "Beer and women with big boobs."



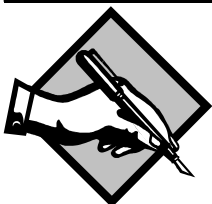
Sports Schedule

The hours below are available at the
 Mary College gym (across the
 for student use:



Friday

Football: 4:00 - 5:30
Basketball: 5:30 - 7:00



The Messenger staff encourages our readers to send their comments in letters to the editor.

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